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ABSTRACT

This report, the second in a series based upon the official Spring First Census, provides data on student demographics and enrollment trends from spring 1994 to spring 1999 for the three colleges in California's Los Rios Community College District: American River College, Cosumnes River College, and Sacramento City College. For the first time, the report includes separate demographic profiles for students at Folsom Lake and El Dorado, two centers that are part of Cosumnes River College. Following a brief introduction, data are presented on total district enrollment; district weekly student contact hours; district enrollment by ethnicity, gender, age group, and by day or evening attendance status; average student unit load; and student status (new, transfer, returning, special admit, or continuing). Findings include the following: (1) total district enrollment increased by 5% between spring 1998 and spring 1999; (2) enrollment patterns by gender, ethnicity, and age remained relatively constant between 1995 and 1999; (3) the proportion of full-time students increased by 6.7% between 1995 and 1999; (4) the vast majority of students are continuing students; and (5) Folsom Lake and El Dorado have a higher proportion of female students, white students, students under 18, and students 40 and over compared with student enrollment district-wide. Contains 8 tables. (CAK)

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# Los Rios Community College District. Spring 1999 Student Profile, Based Upon First Census Data.

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**Los Rios Community College District**
**Office of Institutional Research**

# Spring 1999 Student Profile

## Based upon First Census Data

**March 1999**

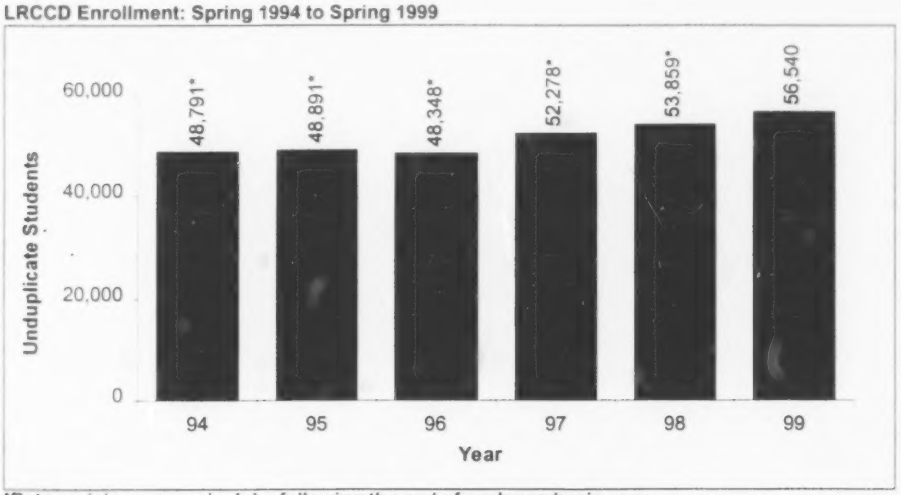
This is the second in a series of Spring Profiles based upon the official Spring First Census. These annual summaries provide the District and its colleges - American River College (ARC), Cosumnes River College (CRC), and Sacramento City College (SCC) - with data on student demographics and enrollment trends - important information for successful planning to meet the needs of our changing student clientele. This report presents student enrollment data and Weekly Student Contact Hours (WSCH) based on the official Spring First Census reports that are issued at the beginning of the fourth week of classes. The Spring Profile is also based upon demographic data generated from the official Spring Fourth Week Census research database. Data includes all students enrolled in *any* course as of first census, regardless of when those courses are actually scheduled to start. Analysis of student demography is based upon data that *excludes* those students who have dropped their courses by first census.

For the first time, the Spring Student Profile includes an analysis of the separate demographic data for the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers which are part of Cosumnes River College. Additionally, the Spring 1999 profile will evaluate the enrollment patterns of students specific only to the CRC campus.

### District Enrollment

Chart 1 presents district enrollment data for the Los Rios Community College District. Over the past three years, the enrollment pattern tends to reflect the growing population trends. After a slight decline in district enrollment from Spring 1995 to Spring 1996 (by 1.1%), enrollment began to increase in Spring 1997. Enrollment increased by 8.1% in Spring 1997, by 3.0% in Spring 1998 and by 5.0% in Spring 1999.

**Chart 1**
**LRCCD Enrollment: Spring 1994 to Spring 1999**



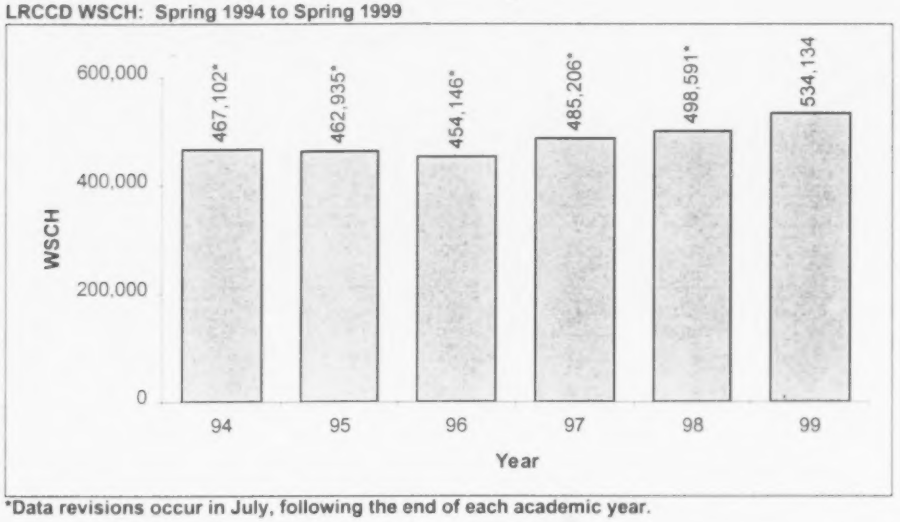

*Data revisions occur in July, following the end of each academic year.

Enrollment increased at each of the Los Rios colleges in Spring 1999 from the 1998 figures: by 6.5% at ARC (to 23,026), by 4.2% at CRC (to 9,052 noting that Folsom Lake and El Dorado enrollment figures are now reported separately), by 2.8% at SCC (to 18,512), and 7.6% at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers (to 5,950).

## District Weekly Student Contact Hours

Similar to District enrollment in 1999, Weekly Student Contact Hours (WSCH) increased, but by a higher 7.1%. As indicated by Chart 2, this is the third annual increase in WSCH at Los Rios colleges. The recent pattern of increasing WSCH at LRCCD is a reflection of an average student who continues to enroll in slightly higher unit loads.

**Chart 2**
**LRCCD WSCH: Spring 1994 to Spring 1999**



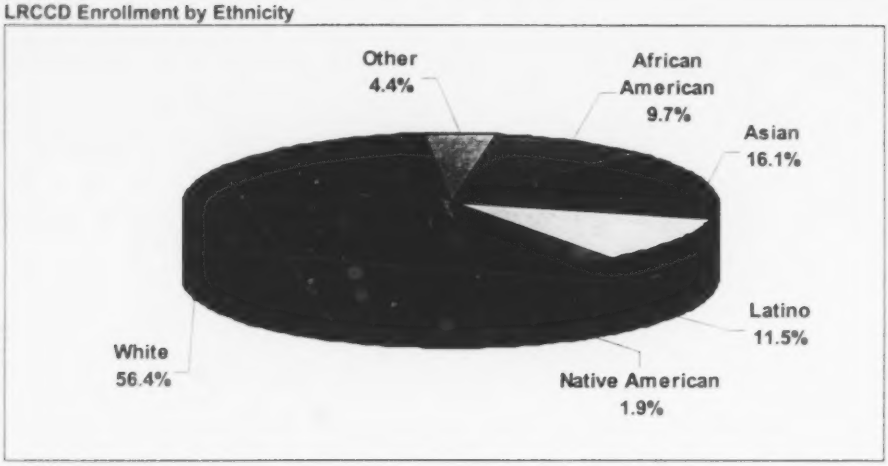

*Data revisions occur in July, following the end of each academic year.

WSCH increased at slightly higher rates than enrollment at each of the three Los Rios colleges. However, at Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers WSCH increased by a slightly lower 6.9% compared to the higher 7.6% increase in enrollment. This can be attributed to the part-time nature of the students enrolled at these two centers, which given facilities limitations, do not have the more comprehensive range of services needed by many full-time students.

## District Enrollment by Ethnicity

Chart 3 depicts the District's ethnic composition in Spring 1999. The Spring 1999 distribution of ethnic minority students at Los Rios is 39.2%, generally mirroring the Spring 1998 pattern. The total proportion of ethnic minorities among the Spring semester Los Rios student population increased slightly over the last five years, from 38.4% in Spring 1995 to 39.2% in Spring 1999.

Chart 3
LRCCD Enrollment by Ethnicity




Asian students continue to be the largest minority group enrolled at Los Rios. The 16.1% of Asians enrolled in Spring 1999 has remained fairly stable over the past five years. The remaining ethnic composition of the District's Spring 1999 enrollment is as follows: Latino's, 11.5%; African Americans, 9.7%; Native Americans, 1.9%; and the remaining 4.4% include students from various other ethnic minority groups and those students who declined to state their ethnicity. The proportion of white student enrollment at Los Rios declined slightly, from 57.9% in Spring 1995 to 56.4% in Spring 1999.

The 39.2% enrollment of ethnic minority students in Spring 1999 is substantially higher than the proportions of the ethnic minority population living in the surrounding Sacramento-Yolo Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) served by the Los Rios colleges. The July 1996 CMSA data reports 29.3% of Sacramento's area population are members of a minority group.

There are some differences in Spring 1999 enrollment based on ethnicity at the college level. CRC (without students from the centers) enrolls a higher proportion of Asians (25.7%), African Americans (14.0%), and Latinos (12.4%) when compared to District enrollment proportions. SCC also enrolls higher proportions of Asians (23.8%), Latino's (15.2%) and African Americans (12.6%) than district-wide enrollment. It is interesting to note that student enrollment specific to CRC illustrates a higher proportion of Asian students than does SCC, which has traditionally been viewed as having the highest proportion of Asian students across the district. ARC enrollment based on ethnicity shows a lower proportion in each of the ethnic categories except Native Americans (noting the small numbers) and a higher proportion of white student (65.6%) enrollment. Of additional interest is the continuing subtle shift in ARC enrollment proportions based on ethnicity when comparing Spring 1995 to Spring 1999, as there were enrollment increases in each of the ethnic categories, with the exception of Native American students where there was a slight decline. The proportion of white student enrollment at ARC decreased 3.1% during this same period of time.

Analysis of the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers' Spring 1999 ethnicity profile results in a much different enrollment pattern. Most noteworthy is the substantially higher proportion of white students enrolled at both the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers, 78.3% and 86.6%, respectively.

### District Enrollment by Gender

Historically, there has been very little change in the proportions of men and women enrolled at Los Rios colleges, fluctuating less than 1% between Spring semesters. Chart 4 illustrates this fact, as there was virtually no change in district enrollment by gender from Spring 1995 to Spring 1999.

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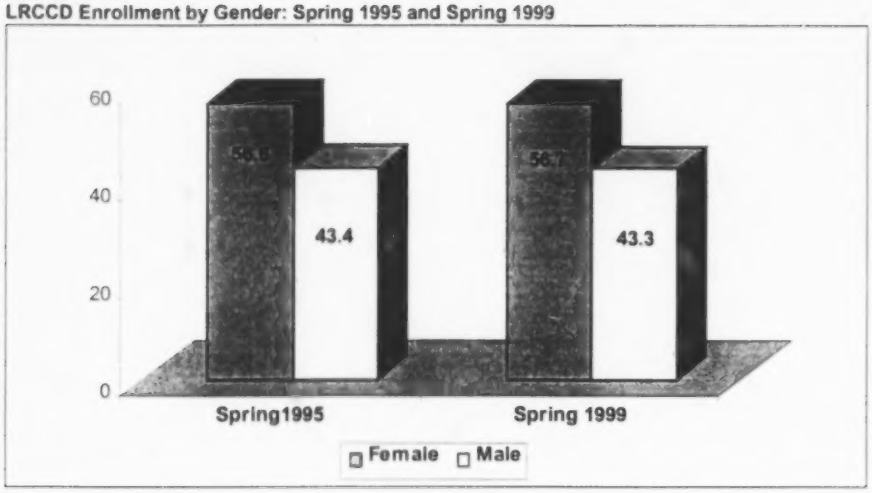
Chart 4
LRCCD Enrollment by Gender: Spring 1995 and Spring 1999




The enrollment pattern by gender varies somewhat among the Los Rios colleges. ARC has a higher proportion of male students (45.6%) and a lower proportion of female students (54.4%) than the District for Spring 1999. In comparison, SCC's enrollment proportions of women to men for Spring 1999 varies slightly from the District, with 57.5% female and 42.5% male enrollment. CRC enrollment by gender (without the centers) generally mirrors district enrollment proportions. The proportion of females enrolled at Folsom Lake (63.0%) and El Dorado (64.6%) are higher than the District for Spring 1999.

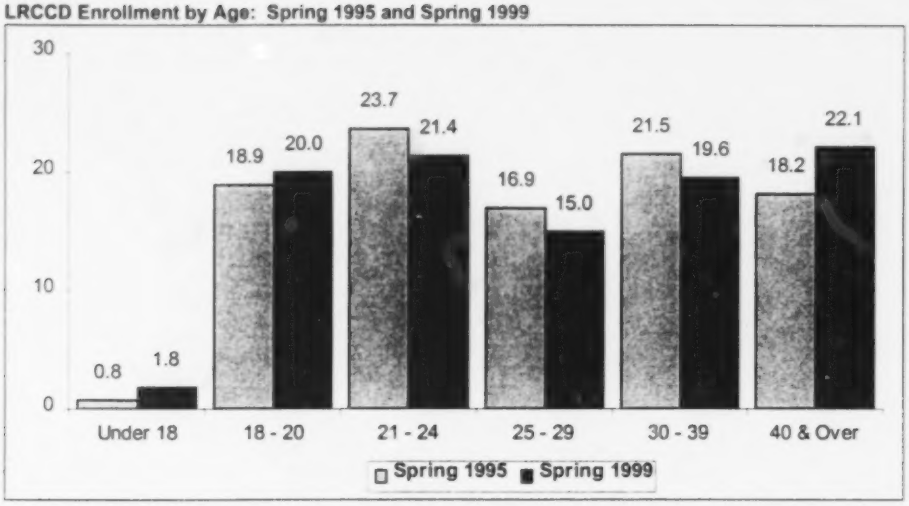
Spring 1999 enrollment by gender based on ethnicity illustrates differing enrollment patterns within several ethnic categories. District-wide African American enrollment by gender has a substantially higher proportion of female students (60.7%) than males (39.3%). Although the proportion of African American enrollment by gender has remained relatively unchanged from Spring 1995 to Spring 1999, the *number* of African American females has increased by 40.5%, compared to an increase of 38.8% for all African American students and a 29.6% comparable enrollment increase for all Los Rios students.

The proportion of female African American students (over African American males) is even higher at both CRC (63.8%, without center enrollment) and SCC (61.5%). In comparison, Asians enroll relatively similar proportions of females (52.4%) and male (47.6%) students across the district. Although Asians enroll in similar gender proportions, there was a 2.5% increase in the proportion of Asian female students enrolled in LRCCD since Spring 1995. The proportion of Latino enrollment by gender based on ethnicity generally mirrors that of the district. Native American students enroll higher proportions of female students (60.2%) than male students (39.8%), noting that the number of Native American students is small.

## District Enrollment by Age Group

The proportion of students enrolled at Los Rios who were 20-and-under increased by 2.1%, from 19.7% in Spring 1995 to 21.8% in Spring 1999. However, Chart 5 illustrates that the enrollment of students in each of the age categories between 21 - 39 has declined from Spring 1995 to Spring 1999.

**Chart 5**
**LRCCD Enrollment by Age: Spring 1995 and Spring 1999**




There continues to be an increase in the proportion of those students enrolled who are 40-and-over district-wide, increasing from 18.2% in Spring 1995 to 22.1% of student enrollment in Spring 1999.

Spring 1999 ARC and SCC enrollment by age generally reflects the district enrollment pattern. ARC does enroll a slightly smaller proportion of students 20-and-under (18.0%) compared to the district proportion (21.8%). Students 40-and-over at SCC enroll in smaller proportions than district-wide, 18.3% compared to 22.1% across the district.

Analysis of CRC's enrollment by age (without center enrollment) demonstrates a slightly younger population enrolling at CRC: 2.4% of CRC students are under-18 and 22.6% of students enrolled are 18 - 20. CRC enrolls a slightly lower proportion of students 40-and-over, 20.2% compared to the 22.1% enrolled across the district in Spring 1999. However, the proportion of students 40-and-over has increased at CRC by 4.1%, from 16.1% in Spring 1995 to 20.2% in Spring 1999.

There are higher proportions of both students under-18 (4.6%), students 18 - 20 (21.1%), students 30 - 39 (20.1%) and students 40-and-over (31.6%) enrolled at the Folsom Lake Center in Spring 1999 than district-wide. The El Dorado Center enrolls higher proportions of students under-18 (4.6%) and even higher proportions of students 18 - 20 (25.6%) than district proportions. Noting the higher proportions of younger students, it is of importance to mention the increasing high school graduate population within El Dorado County, which feeds into the two centers. High school graduates from schools in the El Dorado County area increased by 19.1% from 1993-94 to 1997-98 and experienced an annual 7.6% increase from 1996-97 to 1997-98. The higher proportion of younger students at both the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers reflects the increasing high school graduate population in the surrounding El Dorado County area as well as ongoing high school recruitment efforts at the two centers. El Dorado center also enrolls a higher proportion of students 40-and-over (32.6%) than comparable district enrollment proportions.

## District Enrollment by Day and Evening Attendance

Chart 6 compares the District proportions of day and evening attendance for Spring 1995 and Spring 1999. Figures indicate that 2.9% fewer students are attending courses that are offered during the day only and 3.8% fewer students are attending courses offered during the evening only.

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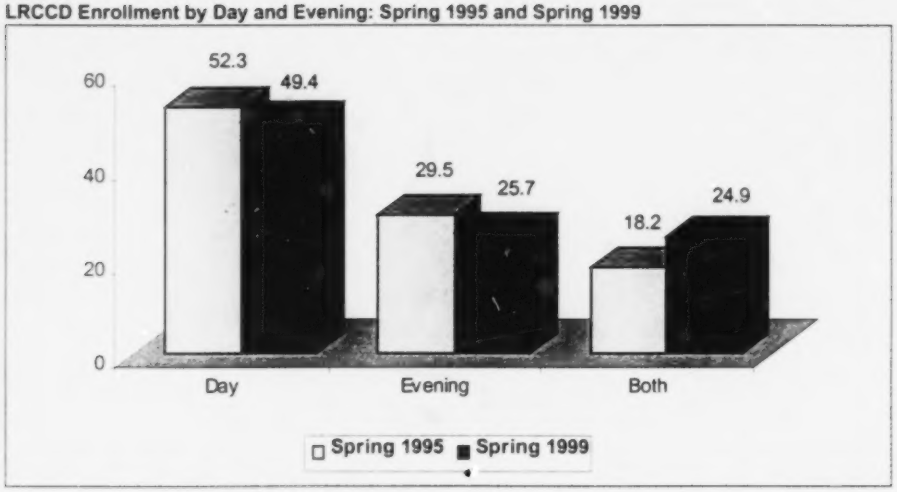
**Chart 6**
**LRCCD Enrollment by Day and Evening: Spring 1995 and Spring 1999**




Conversely, 6.7% more students in Spring 1999 are attending *both* day and evening courses than was the case five years earlier.

ARC (52.4%) and SCC (50.7%) have similar proportions of day only students, while CRC (46.7%) has a slightly lower proportion of day only students. Of the three colleges, CRC has the highest proportion of students attending courses offered in the evening only (25.8%), while ARC's proportion of evening only students (23.7%) is slightly lower than district (25.7%) proportions. SCC, with 21.8% of students enrolled in evening only courses, has the lowest proportion in the district. The proportion of students taking *both* day and evening courses at ARC (23.9%) is slightly lower than district enrollment (24.9%) for Spring 1999. CRC (27.5%) and SCC (27.4%) have higher proportions of students enrolled in *both* day and evening courses than comparative district enrollment.

Of interest is the changing day and evening attendance patterns that has occurred over the past five years at Los Rios colleges. American River College students attending courses offered during *both* day and evening increased by 6.6%. Similar to the pattern at ARC, there was a 5.7% increase in the proportion of students who are attending *both* day and evening courses at CRC from Spring 1995 to Spring 1999. SCC day and evening attendance patterns had the most significant changes during this five-year period. There was an 8.2% increase from Spring 1995 to Spring 1999 in the proportion of SCC students who are attending *both* day and evening courses.

Student enrollment by day and evening attendance at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers is much different than that of the Los Rios colleges and the district. Folsom Lake Center has a high proportion of students attending day only courses (44.0%). El Dorado Center student enrollment proportions by day and evening attendance are quite distinct from those at the Folsom Lake Center in that students are fairly evenly distributed between day only, evening only and *both* day and evening courses.

There have been five-year changes in day and evening attendance patterns at the centers as well. Whereas Folsom Lake Center experienced a 14.1% decline in evening only students from Spring 1995 to Spring 1999, those students attending day only and *both* day and evening courses increased by 6.4% and 7.6%, respectively. In contrast to the changes in attendance patterns at the Folsom Lake Center, there was an 8.5% decline in students attending courses offered during the day only at El Dorado Center from Spring 1995 to Spring 1999. However, there was a 3.1% increase in students attending courses offered during the evening only and a 5.4% increase in the proportion of students attending *both* day and evening courses at El Dorado Center from Spring 1995 to Spring 1999.

## Unit Load by District Students

Three categories of unit-load are illustrated in Chart 7 to demonstrate trends in students' course loads in Spring 1995 and Spring 1999. "Light-load" students are those taking fewer than six units; "mid-load" students are those taking six to 11.9 units; and "full-time" students are those with 12 or more units. There was a 6.5% decline in the proportion of Los Rios students who are part-time (mid and light-load), decreasing from 81.3% in Spring 1995 to 74.8% of student enrollment in Spring 1999.

**Chart 7**
**LRCCD Enrollment by Course Load: Spring 1995 and Spring 1999**

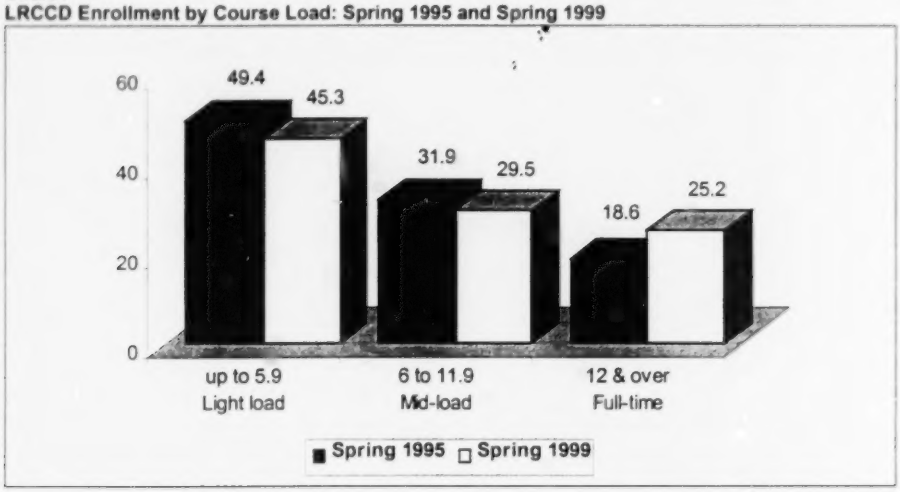



Chart 7 demonstrates both the five-year decline in part-time student enrollment at Los Rios colleges and the increase in full-time enrollment, up from 18.6% in Spring 1995 to 25.2% in Spring 1999. The average units attempted by Los Rios students in Spring 1995 was 6.56 compared to 7.14 average units attempted by students in Spring 1999.

Each of the three Los Rios colleges as well as the two centers experienced increases in full-time enrollment from Spring 1995 to Spring 1999. Sacramento City College had both the greatest proportions of full-time students (30.3%) as well as the largest increase in full-time students, increasing by 8.1% from Spring 1995. American River College had 24.1% full-time students enrolled (a 7.7% increase from Spring 1995) and CRC had 28.5% full-time students (increasing 5.9% from Spring 1995). It remains clear that all of the colleges are still predominantly part-time institutions, but full-time student enrollment is on the rise.

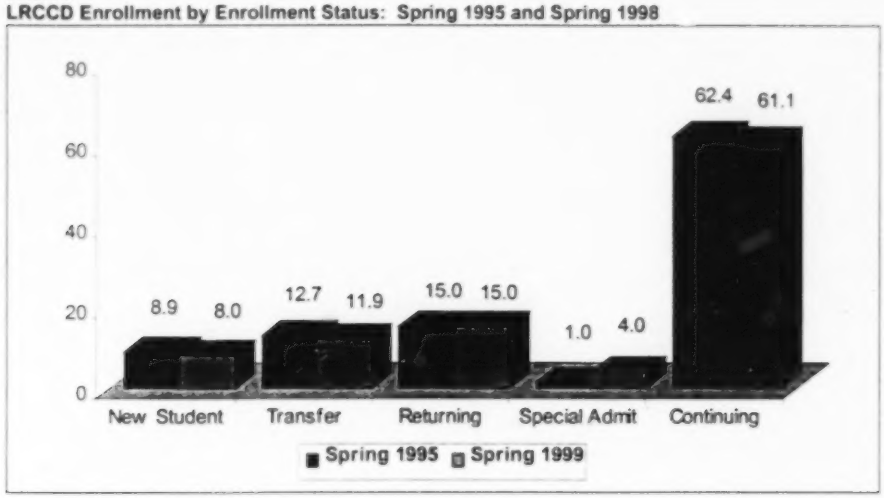
As would be expected due to facilities limitations, enrollment proportions of students who take light class loads are substantially higher at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers, 61.6% at Folsom Lake and 55.2% at El Dorado. The proportion of mid and full-load students is lower than that of the district for both Folsom Lake and El Dorado center. However, there was a slight decline in the proportions of mid-load students at both Folsom Lake and El Dorado Center from Spring 1995 to Spring 1999, by 4.2% and 3.1% respectively. The proportion of full-time students increased slightly for the same five-year period, by 2.1% at the Folsom Lake Center and by 3.0% at the El Dorado Center.

## Enrollment Status of District Students

As might be expected, continuing students at LRCCD represent the largest proportion of student enrollment, which remained relatively unchanged from Spring 1995 (62.4%) to Spring 1999 (61.1%). Chart 8 demonstrates that each of the other categories remained stable during this five-year period. There was an increase in the proportion of students who are special admits, students who are

concurrently enrolled in high school and college. From Spring 1995 to Spring 1999 the proportion of special admits increased from 1.0% to 4.0% district-wide.

**Chart 8**
**LRCCD Enrollment by Enrollment Status: Spring 1995 and Spring 1998**




Although the proportion of special admit students continues to be much higher at both the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers when compared to the district overall, there have been declines in the proportions of special admit students attending the centers. From Spring 1995 to Spring 1999 the proportion of special admits decreased from 18.2% to 12.6% at Folsom Lake Center and decreased from 18.8% to 12.3% at the El Dorado Center, as other student groups grew.

## Conclusions

The data presented in the Spring 1999 Profile illustrate the overall growth of Los Rios Community College District's enrollment as well as changing demographic trends. Enrollment has increased annually beginning in Spring 1997 and continued through Spring 1999, by 5.0%. Spring 1999 WSCH increased as well, but by a higher 7.1%. This is the third annual increase in WSCH at Los Rios colleges reflecting the average student is enrolling in slightly higher unit loads. This figure reflects the growing numbers of recently graduated high school students who tend to take higher unit loads.

Long term demographic trends remained relatively constant in Spring 1999. The proportion of ethnic minority students increased only slightly from Spring 1995 to Spring 1999 and enrollment by gender experienced virtually no change. The trend of an older student body at Los Rios continues with 22.1% of all students enrolled 40-and-over. There is an increase in the number of very young students as well. Comparison of Spring 1995 to Spring 1999 by age indicates a 2.1% increase in students enrolled who are 20-and-under. In particular, CRC (without center enrollment) has a slightly younger student population, with 25.0% of CRC students 20-and-under.

Attendance patterns have shifted over the past five years with fewer students taking courses offered only during the day and courses offered only during the evening and more students attending *both* day and evening courses in Spring 1999. Although Los Rios remains a predominantly part-time institution, there is a shift in course load patterns of district students. The proportion of full-time students increased by 6.7% from Spring 1995 to Spring 1999, again, a reflection of the growing number of recently graduated high school students.

The vast majority of Los Rios students are continuing students. Enrollment of new, transfer and returning students remained relatively unchanged from Spring 1995 to Spring 1999. Of interest is the increase of those students with an enrollment status of Special Admit district-wide (by 3.0% over the five-year period). The enrollment patterns of Spring students generally reflect the patterns of students enrolled at Los Rios colleges in the Fall in all but two areas. There were 6.7% fewer students 20-and-under in Spring 1999 than there were in Fall 1998 and there were also increases in each of the age categories between 21 - 39

as well as students 40-and-over, a normal shifting of students from one age category to another. Comparing the enrollment status of Spring 1999 students to those enrolled in Fall 1998 demonstrates some differences. As expected, there was 11.4% more continuing students (49.7% in Fall 1998 and 61.1% in Spring 1999). Spring 1999 enrollment has fewer new, transfer and returning students than comparable Fall 1998 enrollment proportions. The shifts in enrollment patterns between Fall and Spring are reflective of normal enrollment patterns: higher proportions of younger and never before enrolled students in the Fall and subsequent higher proportions of a slightly older student body of continuing students in the Spring.

For the first time the Spring Profile includes separate demographic profiles for the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers. Although there are similarities with the district, there are some noteworthy differences in the student profiles of these two centers. Folsom Lake and El Dorado have a higher proportion of female students, a substantially higher proportion of white students, of students under-18 and of those students 40-and-over compared to student enrollment district-wide.

As expected, due to facility limitations at the centers, a much higher proportion of Folsom Lake and El Dorado center students enroll in evening only classes than do students district-wide. El Dorado Center student enrollment proportions by day/evening attendance are quite distinct from those at Folsom Lake Center in that El Dorado students are fairly evenly distributed between day only, evening only, and *both* day and evening courses. Additionally, there have been five-year changes at the centers as well. In particular, Folsom Lake Center experienced a 14.1% decline in evening only students from Spring 1995 to Spring 1999 and enrollment increased in day only and *both* day and evening enrollment. Expansion of facilities at Folsom Lake, slated for completion by October or November of 2000, will be much welcomed by these students.

Enrollment proportions of students who take light loads are substantially higher at Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers than unit loads of all Los Rios students. One of the most interesting characteristics of student enrollment at Folsom Lake and El Dorado is the higher proportion of Special Admit students; over 12.0% of students enrolled at both the Centers are Special Admit students, compared to 4.0% district-wide.

Separate analysis of Folsom Lake and El Dorado Center allows us the ability to evaluate the enrollment patterns specific to students at the CRC campus. One of the most noteworthy findings is that the CRC ethnic population looks more like that of SCC than like the district overall. In fact, CRC enrolls a higher proportion of Asian students than does SCC, which has traditionally been thought to have the highest proportion of Asian enrollment.

The Spring 1999 Student Profile is based on unduplicate student demography generated from the Spring First Census reports that are issued for the fourth week of classes from the research database. Of additional interest to district enrollment stability, growth and shifting demographic trends is the increase in the number of duplicate students, those students attending more than one Los Rios college. The number of duplicate enrollees increased from approximately 668 in Spring 1995 to 1,475 in Spring 1999, a 118.1% increase. This suggests that the number of students who are mobile and willing to travel to take the courses they need is expanding.

One of the strengths of the expanded Spring Profile is the stronger capability to report those areas of demographic stability as well as demographic shifts, both important tools in the Los Rios Community College District's continuing efforts to meet the diverse needs of our current and future student populations.

This report was written by Betty Glyer-Culver and is based on data generated from the LRCCD Research Database, developed and managed by Minh La, Systems Hardware and Software Performance Analyst.

For further information please call: 916-568-3131 or email: loc@mail.do.losrios.cc.ca.us, LRCCD Office of Institutional Research.

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